



Closed for business

Customers were surprised to discover Backyard & Veranda home decor stores abruptly closed Wednesday PAGE 3

Canada
Innovates



THE LIGHTS ARE ON

AND CANADIANS ARE RIGHT AT HOME WHEN IT COMES TO INNOVATIVE IDEAS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

PAGES 8 & 9



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Thursday, February 21, 2013



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AXE FALLS ON HUSKIES

The Saint Mary's Huskies' Matt Tipoff, left, and Christopher Owens of the Acadia Axemen fight for the puck during Game 1 of their best-of-five semifinal series at the Halifax Forum on Wednesday. Acadia took the opener 3-2 in double overtime. For the story, see page 18. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Retrieve capsized boat: Victims' dads

Missing fisherman.

RCMP assessing whether capsized vessel can be salvaged

Quoted

"We need to know for sure that we've done everything we can."

George Hopkins, father of missing fisherman Joel Hopkins

The fathers of two young Nova Scotia fishermen who disappeared when their boat capsized are demanding the Canadian government retrieve the vessel.

Stephen Nickerson and George Hopkins say the 13-metre boat — spotted overturned early Monday off southwest Nova Scotia — could contain the bodies of their sons and answers as to why the boat flipped over Sunday night.

The two men say time is running out because the boat is unlikely to stay afloat for much longer.

"If my boy is in that boat, I want to bring him home," Nickerson said. "I think he's

in that boat. And I think attempts should be made to (salvage the vessel)."

In addition to Steven Cole Nickerson and Joel Hopkins, there were three other men aboard the Miss Ally when it capsized late Sunday night.

Stephen Nickerson said he's asked the military for a salvage operation, but he was told the case is now being handled by the RCMP as a missing-persons file.

"It seems like they're not going to do anything about that," said Nickerson, a fisherman for 35 years. "They said the search is called off and it's been turned over to the RCMP. That's it. That's as far as they go.... We're all mad. It should

go farther."

George Hopkins said the families need closure.

"I want to get the message that these kids were important. They were important to me, they were important to this community."

RCMP Cpl. Scott MacRae said the Mounties are aware of the strong emotions surrounding the case, adding that planning is underway to determine whether a salvage operation could be carried out.

A massive search for survivors was called off at 6 p.m. Tuesday when the military decided the crew's chances for survival were slim, even if they were wearing immersion suits. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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H&M

Local furniture store bites the dust

Shutdown. Backyard & Veranda abruptly closes both stores in HRM



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Disappointed

"I'm really quite surprised that they closed down so abruptly."

Store patron Kathleen Dolan

Kathleen Dolan sheltered her face from the rain as she peered into the darkened storefront of Backyard & Veranda in Dartmouth Crossing.

With no warning, the home-decor store posted a closure notice on its website and Facebook page on Wednesday morning, sparking confusion and disappointment on social media.

Both the Dartmouth and Sunnyside Mall stores were shuttered.

"I'm pretty surprised," said Dolan, who had driven to the Dartmouth store in search of furnishings for her nursery. "They have such nice stuff. It's really hard to find anywhere else in the city."

Dolan said she had visited the store two weeks ago and everything seemed "business as usual."

The owner of Backyard & Veranda could not be

reached for comment on Wednesday.

Bedford councillor Tim Outhit said he's always unhappy when a locally owned store closes in his area.

"It's a wonderful buy-local boutique with wonderful customer service, employing some local people. So it's always very sad," Outhit said.

He added it would be interesting to know whether the store's operating costs were going up because of property taxes, suggesting more could be done with tax reform to help small-business owners.

Jim Cormier, Atlantic director for the Retail Council of Canada, said retail is one of the most competitive industries, and the Halifax economy hasn't completely bounced back from the global recession.

"Retail is often a very good barometer of public confidence in the economy,"



A woman peeks through the window of Backyard & Veranda at Dartmouth Crossing on Wednesday. The store has closed both its locations in HRM. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Cormier said. "People are always going to buy their groceries, but ... they may put off buying

that electronic item they've always wanted."

A sign on the door of the Dartmouth store said any

questions could be directed to Grant Thornton, but calls from Metro were not returned on Wednesday.

Spryfield shooting suspects wanted for attempted murder



Anthony Michael Leadley, left, and Christian Enang Clyke are wanted for attempted murder in a home invasion and shooting in Spryfield. CONTRIBUTED

Canada-wide warrants have been issued for the suspects in a shooting that happened during a recent home invasion in Spryfield.

Police say two men, one of whom was carrying a gun, broke into an apartment on Forbes Street at about 10:15 p.m. on Tuesday and then chased a man out of the building.

Two shots were fired after the suspects and victim left the apartment.

The two intruders then fled on foot.

No one was hurt, and police say all parties involved

know each other.

Just before 1 a.m. on Wednesday, patrol officers in Dartmouth saw a vehicle believed to be associated with one of the suspects and followed it to behind an apartment building on Windmill Road, where the suspect fled on foot.

A K-9 unit tried to track the man down, but was unsuccessful.

Police have obtained warrants for Christian Enang Clyke, 20, and Anthony Michael Leadley, 21. Both are facing nearly two dozen charges, including weapons

offences, two counts of attempted murder and three of assault.

Clyke is described as a black man, six-foot-one, 150 pounds, with brown hair and eyes. Leadley is described as light-skinned, six feet tall, 180 pounds, with brown hair and eyes.

Both Clyke and Leadley are considered armed and dangerous, and should not be approached. Anyone with information on their whereabouts is asked to contact Halifax Regional Police, the local police or Crime Stoppers. METRO

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1 NEWS

4th anniversary. Still no leads, no suspects in Marriott murder



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Four years after Terry Marriott Jr. was murdered in a Spryfield home, police say they are still looking for new information from the public.

On Feb. 20, 2009, Marriott Jr. was shot and killed inside a home on Whitehead Road, where he had been socializing with friends.

"We're still looking for someone responsible," said Const. Pierre Bourdages of the Halifax Regional Police.

"There have been no arrests in this case and we've followed various tips throughout the years ... but at this time we don't have a suspect," Bourdages said.

Investigators do not believe the killing was a random act.

Marriott Jr. was the son of a notorious Halifax crime family. He had been involved with the local drug trade for years, and allegedly feuded with the Melvin clan.

He had previously served time in prison for trafficking marijuana and cocaine.

Bourdages said the police



Terry Marriott Jr. was shot to death Feb. 20, 2009. CONTRIBUTED

treat every homicide the same, regardless of a victim's background.

"I can't see that there's a difference between this case and any other case," Bourdages said. "Homicides are always upsetting for our citizens and very concerning to us."

Bourdages said the police are following any tips they receive on the file, which was added to Department of Justice's Major Unsolved Crimes Program last year.

The reward for information leading to a conviction in these cases can be up to \$150,000.

"We are looking for anybody that would have any information, even if they believe it would be irrelevant," Bourdages said.



Lace up at lunchtime — it's free

Melanie Rusinak, left, and Virginia Bonn skate during their lunch break at the Halifax Metro Centre Wednesday. The Metro Centre is offering free noon skating for the rest of the season, in honour of its 35th anniversary.

MARIKA MCKENZIE/FOR METRO

Sidewalk crash

Teens arrested after car chase

Two teens are facing charges related to a car theft that led to a police chase and crash in Halifax's south end early Wednesday morning.

Halifax Regional Police say officers left for the 5900 block of Chain Rock Drive around 1 a.m. after getting reports of a theft in progress.

They say police spotted the stolen vehicle at North Park and Cunard streets and attempted to pull it over. The vehicle didn't stop and sped off towards the downtown core, but the driver lost control while turning onto Barrington Street from Duke Street and crashed on the sidewalk.

Both occupants fled on foot and were arrested a short distance away. Neither was injured.

Cody Richard Jesso, 18, is facing charges that include theft of a motor vehicle and possession of property obtained by crime.

A 16-year-old boy is charged with theft of a motor vehicle, mischief over \$5,000 and dangerous operation of motor vehicle.

ALY THOMSON/METRO

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Hydro. Citizens' group says government's approach to Muskrat Falls is all wet

A local citizens' group seeking lower power rates says the Nova Scotia government is approaching the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project "completely backwards."

Energy Minister Charlie Parker is travelling across the province to share details of the government's energy plan and spoke with residents in Bridgewater on Wednesday about the \$7.7-billion project in Labrador.

Todd McDonald of the Lower Power Rates Alliance said Parker should have sought input from residents before sending Emera Inc.'s 180-kilometre subsea cable portion of the project to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

"If I was running a government, I would do it the opposite way," said McDonald in Halifax on Wednesday. "I would ask people for their opinion, then I would study it, then I would decide to approve it."

"(Parker) has got it completely backwards."

The province says the project would provide a reliable and predictable source of clean energy for 35 years and would stabilize power rates.

But McDonald asked: "Who

Quote

"It's completely irresponsible. It needs to be slowed down and we to study all the options." Todd McDonald, Lower Power Rates Alliance Nova Scotia

wants their rates to be stabilized at the all-time high?"

"We have the highest rates in Canada, and in other jurisdictions they're going down," he said, adding that power has gone up 28 per cent over the last four years.

The government says Muskrat Falls is the lowest long-term cost option for Nova Scotia and would generate jobs and economic activity while connecting the province to the North American electricity grid.

NSP Maritime Link Inc. — a subsidiary of Emera — has asked the UARB to approve \$1.52 billion in capital spending for the Maritime Link, which would import hydro beginning in 2017. The board has until July to make a decision.

ALY THOMSON/METRO

NSCAD future in doubt as financial pressure builds



The pedestrian mall near the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design is seen in Halifax on Monday. Canada's oldest independent arts university is facing an uncertain future amid financial troubles and intense pressures from the N.S. government to deal with their fiscal problems. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Money matters. Head of struggling arts university says provincial deadline to address finances can't be met

The future of Canada's oldest independent arts university is in doubt as it faces growing pressure to cut costs, increasingly tense labour negotiations and talk of merging programs with other schools.

NSCAD University has cut jobs, classes and raised tuition fees in an effort to get its fiscal house in order — and more belt-tightening is expected.

The Nova Scotia government has asked the cash-strapped school to submit a

sustainability plan in exchange for about \$1.3 million to cover its deficit this fiscal year, says NSCAD's acting president, Dan O'Brien.

The government wants a plan by March 15 to pay down the school's \$18-million debt, reduce classroom space and explore affiliations with other schools — but O'Brien said provincially funded studies examining those options won't be completed until later this spring.

"The wisdom of asking us to project conclusions that precede the completion of the studies escapes us," he says.

"We have every intention in attempting to comply, but ... we will not be able to meet the conditions that they have laid down."

The government wouldn't confirm details, but said it wants NSCAD to develop a plan to address its financial problems.

Contract negotiations between the union and university hit an impasse last week, and Comiter has warned that picket lines could be set up March 6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We still have no idea what's going to be forced upon the university."

Alvin Comiter, president, NSCAD's faculty union

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Cross-country concepts

Innovation in Canada can be traced back more than 150 years, and many Canadian inventions are still in use today. You may be surprised at some of the innovations that put Canada on the map.

COMPILED BY METRO CALGARY

B.C./Alberta

Java
Java applets sound familiar? Calgary-born and educated James Gosling, along with partners Mike Sheridan and Patrick Naughton, brought us the now widely used computer language, Java, which first rolled out to the public in 1995, is a computer language that can run on various platforms without having to be reconfigured.



Insite
North America's only legal supervised-injection site is considered by many to be a great social innovation. The controversial program, operated by B.C.'s Health Ministry and located in

Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, provides a health-focused site for injection drug-use (heroin, cocaine, morphine). The clinic doesn't provide drugs but helps administer addiction treatment, mental-health outreach and first aid to an area of the city with rampant drug use.



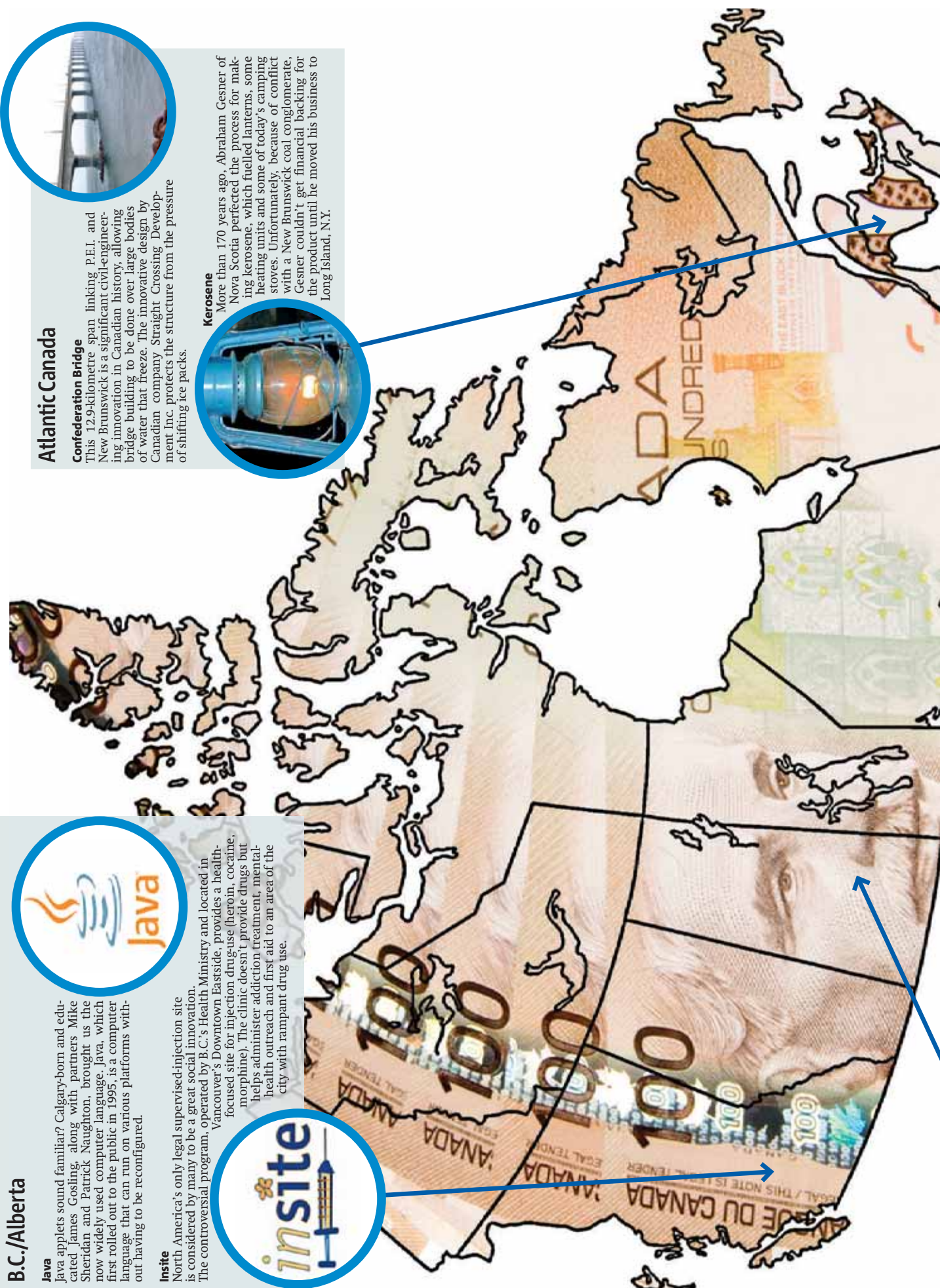
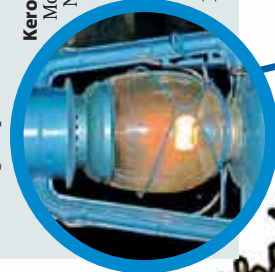
Atlantic Canada

Confederation Bridge
This 12.9-kilometre span linking P.E.I. and New Brunswick is a significant civil-engineering innovation in Canadian history, allowing bridge building to be done over large bodies of water that freeze. The innovative design by Canadian company Straight Crossing Development Inc. protects the structure from the pressure of shifting ice packs.



Kerosene

More than 170 years ago, Abraham Gesner of Nova Scotia perfected the process for making kerosene, which fuelled lanterns, some heating units and some of today's camping stoves. Unfortunately, because of conflict with a New Brunswick coal conglomerate, Gesner couldn't get financial backing for the product until he moved his business to Long Island, N.Y.



Prairies

Garbage bag

One man's trash is another man's treasure. In 1950, Winnipeg engineer and industrial designer Harry Wasylyuk and his partner Larry Hansen developed the first commercial disposable green garbage bag. The first bags were sold to the Winnipeg General Hospital. The invention was later purchased by Union Carbide, which brought us Glad garbage bags by the 1960s.

Air ambulance

Peace of mind in emergency situations was given a big boost in the mid-1940s with the start of the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance Service (SAAS). It was the first non-military, government-operated air-ambulance service in the world to take flight. It allowed emergency crews access to remote areas to provide service where ground ambulance was unavailable. Air transport is now regularly used around the world as part of emergency services.

Central Canada

Instant replay

Saturday-night hockey is quintessentially Canadian, and so too is the instant replay we see on all the great goals. Hockey Night in Canada producer George Retzlaff first pioneered slow-mo replay during a 1955 broadcast. The replay came several minutes after the initial play.

Pablum

A staple in any home with toddlers, pablum, the cereal paste with all sorts of nutritional value, was developed at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children in 1930. The soft cereal, and others like it, is still widely used all over the world.

Canada Innovates



Part 2

Notice anything different? Part 2 of Metro's look at innovation in Canada is laid out with a vertical design. Not only does it enable a clean, sharp look at some of Canada's best ideas and the people who brought them to us, but it also serves a practical purpose.

The vertical layout is an idea born in the tight confines of mass transit, where you often bump elbows with your neighbour on the train or bus. Reading a paper this way can take up less space, giving those around you more.

Do you like it? Send us an email at readers@metronews.ca or tweet @MetroNewsCanada with your thoughts.

Tomorrow, we punch in a few key words in our design as we look at past failures and innovative ideas for solving them.

Exclusively online

Not every invention ever made is a hit. Visit metronews.ca/badideas for our gallery of the worst inventions ever.

Patience, collaboration and perseverance: Four grassroots innovators have come up with new solutions to old problems.

DARREN KRAUSE/METRO

Heather Young — Young Associates

ALLOWED UNORGANIZED GROUPS TO FOCUS MORE ON ART

At first, Heather Young didn't know much more about arts administration than the students she taught at Humber College in Toronto 20 years ago. But what she quickly learned while trying to teach sound fundamentals of arts management was that hard information on the topic was difficult to muster — let alone make available to budding artists and art groups. As good innovators often do, she saw a need and filled it. Young crafted her own materials, including Finance for the Arts in Canada, a textbook and reference guide to aid in running an arts organization. Her company, Young Associates — with a staff of 12 — now serves as a financial management resource for 90 Toronto companies. She's soaked in years of knowledge working with arts groups in the city — something she believes is essential for innovation.

"Get to know your subject area as intimately as you possibly can," she said. "You need to know the upsides and downsides of what you're working on ... and in particular the gaps in the available supports."



Arts

Christine Causing — Edmonton Next Gen

HELPED GENERATE CREATIVE IDEAS THROUGH CONNECTING CREATIVE MINDS

There are ideas aplenty. But bringing like minds together helps incubate those ideas and connect people with partners who can really make things happen.

That's the idea behind successful Pecha Kucha events, like those held in Edmonton under the leadership of Christine Causing, co-ordinator for Edmonton Next Gen.

Next Gen's mandate is to create "a hub for connecting people, places, community and ideas together," something Causing believes is essential for an idea to move forward.

"It's all about exposure for ideas," said Causing, who has helped steer 14 successful Pecha Kuchas since 2007, with a 15th slated for the first week of March. "It starts a whole conversation about an issue or an idea or even something city council should be doing."

Sometimes it's the planting of a seed, said Causing. Sometimes it's a conversation or awareness about something happening in the community. Creating a space where ideas and individuals collide stimulates further innovation. "It brings people together to share ideas," she said. "You can meet people who are directly involved in making things happen in the city." For more information, visit edmontonnextgen.ca.



Collaboration

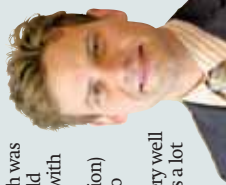
Dr. Michael Montgomery — Kinetica

HELPED BUILDINGS STAND UP TO EXTREME WEATHER

In his words, it's a simple application for a long-standing problem. Working on his PhD at the University of

Toronto, Dr. Michael Montgomery was looking for ways to safely limit the vibration of buildings in earthquake and high-wind situations. Montgomery sought to replace stiff, mediocre-performing reinforced concrete with high damping rubber in between steel plates throughout the structure of the building, effectively absorbing energy triggered by high winds or earthquakes. The technology has been used elsewhere, but never caught on in North America. Montgomery refined the configuration of an older system, which was initially retrofitted to an extent at the World Trade Centre back in the '70s, to come up with a new solution for modern buildings.

"One of the key things for this [innovation] was to be practical," said Montgomery, who is now CEO of the Toronto-based company Kinetica. "If you understand an industry very well and you know what's currently lacking, it's a lot easier to develop something practical and meaningful."



4 Faces of Canadian innovation

Terry Bigsby — Aspenware

MADE CANADIAN MEALS MORE GREEN BY INTRODUCING ECO-FRIENDLY CUTLERY

For woodshop instructor-turned entrepreneur Terry Bigsby, innovation was a long-term labour of love. In 1997, Bigsby saw the merit in a German wood cutlery product for its eco-friendly qualities but got a rude awakening when he travelled to the Fatherland only to hear the \$50-million price tag to import the technology to Canada. That's when he set to work on a made-in-Canada solution.

Multi-award-winning Aspenware's compostable, single-use wood cutlery is textbook innovation. Bigsby's team of 15 collaborated over the next decade to develop a worldwide patented process to produce biodegradable wood cutlery faster, more efficiently and using source material typically not desired in the production of wood tools. He now produces cutlery 10 times faster than the German system he sought 15 years ago. Bigsby, president of the Vernon, B.C.-based company, said he could talk for hours on the lessons he's learned being a passionate innovator — from being ready for the "curve ball" to not being greedy. The one piece of advice he believes is most valuable for innovators is to see things through. "It's the stick-to-itiveness," he said. "If you have an idea that has value and merit — stick to it." Visit aspenware.ca.



Manufacturing

Prosecution falters in Oscar Pistorius case

Murder charge. Police offer shaky testimony, admit forensic blunders

The prosecution case against Oscar Pistorius began to unravel Wednesday with revelations of a series of police blunders and the lead investigator's admission that authorities have no evidence challenging the Olympian's claim he killed his girlfriend accidentally.

Det. Hilton Botha misjudged distances and said testosterone — banned for professional athletes in some cases — was found at the scene, testimony the prosecution withdrew, saying it was still being identified.

The second day of what was supposed to be a mere bail hearing resembled a full-blown trial for the 26-year-old double-amputee, with his lawyer, Barry Roux, tearing into Botha's testimony.

Police, Botha acknowledged, left a 9-mm slug from



The chief magistrate must now decide whether the testimony is enough to deny bail. THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the barrage that killed Reeva Steenkamp inside a toilet and lost track of illegal ammunition found inside the house. And the detective himself potentially contaminated the crime scene by not wearing protective shoe covers.

Pistorius says he mistook

Steenkamp for an intruder, while prosecutors say he planned the killing and attacked her as she cowered behind a locked bathroom door.

The day seemed to start well for the prosecution: ballistic evidence, Botha said, showed the bullets that

killed her had been fired from a height, supporting the prosecution's assertion that Pistorius was wearing prosthetic legs when he took aim. The athlete has maintained he was standing on his stumps.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justin Bieber. Phone calls released in alleged plot to kill and castrate pop star

Newly released audio of phone calls made last November from a New Mexico prison is shedding new light on an alleged plot to murder Justin Bieber.

Police say the calls were between Dana Martin, the 45-year-old prisoner accused of masterminding the plot, and one of the men he allegedly hired to carry out the gruesome plan.

In the tapes, Martin tells the nephew of a former jailhouse friend how to suffocate Bieber using a paisley scarf.

"Tie it really, really tight, knot it in the front once really

tight, and put in a knot, and that cuts off the oxygen, and then tie it in the back again," Martin tells Tanner Ruane.

In another clip, he asks Ruane whether his uncle, Mark Staahe, has gone over "the Bieber thing" with him.

"Nah, the way I like to work ... I like to know as little as possible," Ruane replies.

At another point in the call, however, he tells Martin they have bought hedge clippers, which police have said the would-be killers were to use to castrate Bieber. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Bad law'

Judge not a fan of gun-crime rules

The mandatory minimum sentence enacted by the federal Conservatives that sees first offenders sent to prison for three years on a gun-possession crime is a "bad law," one of Ontario's most senior judges, Appeal Court Justice David Doherty, suggested Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Permission to speak

Tories accused of gagging scientists

The federal information commissioner is being asked to investigate the suppression of scientific information by the Harper government.

Tory policy states federal scientists must get permission before speaking publicly about their work. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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*Limit one coupon per purchase. Coupon expires March 31st, 2013.

One in 4 Canadians is a tablet owner

Usage trends. Survey finds we're most likely to use these 'mobile' devices at home

The iPad is still king; those addicted to their tablets read more news and watch more streaming video; and the popular gadgets are mostly used at home, even though they're often called "mobile" devices, says a new report that details how Canadians are adopting and using tablets.

According to the report by the Media Technology Monitor, a research product of the CBC, an estimated 26 per cent of the population had a tablet as of last fall. Tablet ownership had more than doubled in a year and was up from just five per cent in the spring of 2011.

Of the tablet owners, almost two-thirds had an iPad, while about 15 per cent each had purchased either a BlackBerry PlayBook or a Google Android device.

Owners of iPads were found to be the most enthusiastic about their purchase.



Tablet ownership in Canada has more than doubled in the space of a year, according to a Media Technology Monitor report.

CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

While a vast majority of all tablet owners said they would definitely or probably recommend their device to family and friends (86 per cent), the numbers were even higher for those with an iPad, at 91 per cent. About 61 per cent of iPad owners said they would definitely recommend their tablet, compared to 44 per cent of other tablet owners.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homebody habits

82%

Tablets may be classified as mobile devices, but people largely use them at home. The survey found 82 per cent used tablets most around the house, compared to just eight per cent at work, two per cent at school or while travelling, and one per cent either in a coffee shop or restaurant, in the car, or on public transit.

Market Minute



DOLLAR
98.30¢ (-0.53¢)



TSX
12,714.05 (-96.16)



OIL
\$94.46 US (-\$2.20)



GOLD
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Natural gas: \$3.28 US (-1¢)
Dow Jones: 13,927.54 (-108.13)

Consumers in denial

Keep taking our pennies — please?

Nearly three-quarters of Canadians want retailers to keep accepting the one-cent coin even though it's being phased out, says a new survey. The Bank of Montreal online poll of 1,400 Canadians found that 73 per cent of those surveyed expect retailers to keep taking pennies — regardless of the circumstance or amount of their purchase. And 59 per cent say small businesses should adjust their prices to benefit the consumer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Order of Nova Scotia

The deadline for nominations for the 2013 Order of Nova Scotia is Friday, March 15th.

The Order of Nova Scotia is the highest honour awarded by the province. All Nova Scotians are encouraged to consider nominating or renominating someone who has made an impact on their community and their province. This award is about people who value people.

Information and nomination forms are available in a number of ways:

Online: www.gov.ns.ca/order.asp
E-mail: orderofnovascotia@gov.ns.ca
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Visit: Province House; any MLA, Nova Scotia MP or municipal office.

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A 'BOONE' FOR BACHELOR DECOR



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/voices/
he-says

A friend recently visited my apartment for the first time. She made note of my bare, white walls, my mattress lying directly on the floor, my rooms devoid of paintings, plants or pillows and asked: "Oh, when did you move in?"

I paused: "Three years ago."

Her stare was as blank as the walls.

At first I was embarrassed. I thought to myself, "Self, you need to decorate your bathroom with more than a toothbrush. You need more than five spices to spice up your kitchen. In the living room, you need fewer pizza boxes and more pizzazz."

But I changed my mind when I looked online. Most decorating sites showed bachelor apartments that were attractive, yes, but were also huge, immaculately decorated and overlooking some cityscape or other. These were the kinds of places where you need to use a remote control just to reveal where the TV is hidden. Even inexplicably rich characters on New York-based sitcoms couldn't afford these places. These are, at minimum, lairs for Bond villains.

My embarrassment faded. My current apartment was just fine, thank you.

I still see the value of a nice apartment, mind you, but I think a few easy changes can make all the difference, as you'll see.

John's Tips for Bachelors for Decorating for Cheap for Dummies

How to add a touch of class

Empty wine bottles can look handsome in any living space ... a collection of Boone's Farm shows an under-the-shirt, over-the-bra touch of class that will impress guests who didn't even know you could make wine from mountain berries.

1) Empty wine bottles can look handsome in any living space. For instance, a collection of Boone's Farm shows an under-the-shirt, over-the-bra touch of class that will impress guests who didn't even know you could make wine from mountain berries.

2) Don't like the colour of your bathroom tile? Wait.

3) Savvy decorators use floating shelves to show off mementos, such as commemorative quarters or favourite Bazooka Joe comics. **IMPORTANT:** Please note that floating shelves do

not float, despite the name. Some of us learned the hard way.

4) If you find an infestation of insects, remember that they add personality and much-needed hijinks, unless Disney and Pixar have been lying to us all these years, which seems unlikely.

5) A mirror will make your place look bigger to simpletons. Have guests over and leave them thinking you're twice as popular as you are, but don't let them wander off to the "party" in the "second living room."

6) Mirror not fooling you? Make your space seem bigger by getting new furniture and whistling The Friendly Giant theme all day.

As you can see, making your bachelor pad a happy place is mostly about attitude.

The austere walls of my apartment are minimalist art, I've decided, an unadorned white canvas upon which you can project your great hopes (world peace) or your worst fears (ghost in a snowstorm).

Or perhaps it's a cultural critique of materialism — why do mattresses need elevation, really, except as a sign of our Western insecurities?

Or maybe it's cutting-edge fashion, with the cool, clean lines bringing to mind the futuristic esthetics of a Constitution-class starship. (Nothing says 'I'm a bachelor' like passing references to Star Trek technology.)

The real trick is seeing things in the right light. So if you still hate your place, wait till night, turn off all the lights, and pretend you live some place better.

And if you're still not happy, there's always Boone's.



Birds of the weather



CHINAFOTOPRESS/GETTY IMAGES

For all the snow in China

Guard's break shapes up nicely

This man took his eye off the bank he was minding to do something a little more creative. Security guard Du Jinqian made the most of recent wintry weather in Hangzhou, eastern China, and crafted some dainty birds out of snow. During a work break, he built over a dozen snow chickens and one snow goose on the steps of the bank.

METRO

Tallying winter's toll

60 cm

Heavy snow has fallen across eastern China, causing disruptions to airports and roads. Some 60 cm of snowfall led to the closure of Nanjing Lukou International Airport for more than 12 hours.

90

Ninety houses collapsed and 114 others were damaged due to heavy snow.

\$13.38M

The resulting economic losses totalled \$13.38 million, China Radio International reported.

Assembly required

At work: Fruit peels and a cocktail stick

To create his avian masterpieces, Jinqian used snow and ice collected from nearby parked cars. The guard added discarded bits of fruit and other food items to form the sculptures' eyes and beaks. Jinqian used what looked like a long wooden cocktail stick to provide the finishing touches to his handiwork. Passersby stopped to take photographs of the guard.

METRO

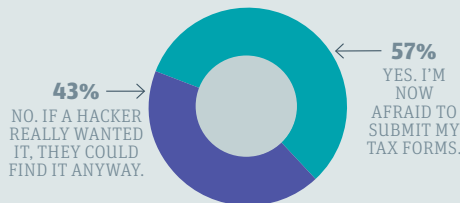
The Hangzhou of it

- **Wealth.** Capital of Zhejiang Province. With its fertile farmland, Zhejiang is China's wealthiest province.
- **Famous visitors.** Marco Polo described Hangzhou as "the greatest city which may be found in this world."
- **'Protestant' work ethic.** Reports claim Hangzhou's famed entrepreneurial spirit is due to the high number of Christians living there.



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Are you concerned the federal government could lose your personal info?



Twitter

@elliottkavanagh:

The wind in Halifax right now is redic.. Feeling like I'm living in a tornado #gettingblownaway.

@earthling85:

Oh yeah, I forgot that umbrellas are used as shields here. #Halifax #weather

@EmsterMac:

Do not try to use an umbrella today unless you want to fly like Mary Poppins. #Halifax #rain #wind

@maiaigreig:

it just sounds so beautiful out! birds chirping, children laughing, just a beautiful day in #halifax #amiright?

@parrot29:

@BobSeger hope for a show in Halifax one of these days! #Seger #Halifax

@SylliboyJohnR:

It takes me 4 minutes to get from my work @MSVU_Halifax to my home on Almon St. How cool is that for transit time? Be Jealous!

His misery loves your company

Comedy. Jeremy Hotz brings his unique brand of “awkwardness and disappointment” to the Cohn on Sunday



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

Self-deprecating humour, sarcasm, and even good ol' fashioned bitterness can get a bad rap.

Perhaps horrible self-doubt and crippling anxiety is seen as something to be hidden — or heavily medicated.

But for standup comedians like Jeremy Hotz, drawing attention to it is a career.

Hotz, a Canadian-born comedian, brings his aptly named Magical Misery Tour to the Rebecca Cohn for back-to-back shows on Sunday night.

Though having once been a staff writer for The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Hotz maintains comedy is a “disgraceful” fall back

Info
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What. The Magical Misery Tour • Where. Rebecca Cohn Auditorium • When. Sunday at 7 and 9:30 p.m. • Tickets. \$44 • Visit. artscentre.dal.ca

career.

“Nothing else really worked for me and I never really got jobs,” he said.

“Everyone walks out on stage and says, ‘It’s really good to be here’ and it’s never good for me to be there — I’m extremely disappointed.”

Even with a Gemini, a Canadian Comedy Award and a Sydney Comedy Festival award, Hotz’s ability to shoot out the light at the end of tunnel turns accolades into nothing more than grandma’s dusty chachkas.

“I think the world finally caught up with me,” he said.

“I’ve come out for years



Canadian comedian Jeremy Hotz will share his awkward moments with Halifax audiences for two shows on Sunday. CONTRIBUTED

stating everything is crap and now that everything is actually crap it all balances out — so I was just a little ahead of my time.”

Not knowing if I should continue muffling my laughter on the other end of the phone or hop the next flight to California to give this man a hug, Hotz is quick to point out that

he’s “fine like this,” before admitting that “if everyone was like this I wouldn’t have an act.”

Bringing his “festival of awkward moments” to Halifax, Hotz knows how to lure in a crowd: “You come to see Jeremy Hotz because you think things are going s— for you? Get a load of this guy.”

Quoted

“I think the world finally caught up with me. I’ve come out for years stating everything is crap and now that everything is actually crap it all balances out.” Jeremy Hotz

2 SCENE

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CLEVE'S Source for sports.

Man claims daughter is Spears' ghost singer on new album

Britney Spears is no stranger to charges that she lip-syncs during concerts and awards show performances, but now the former X Factor judge is accused of lip-syncing in the recording studio, according to Star magazine. "My daughter sings for Britney Spears," Murray Langston tells the magazine, claiming that his daughter, Myah Marie, sang seven songs for Spears on her *Femme Fatale* album — and was only paid \$1,000 per song. "The truth is, Myah can sound just like her. She has a knack."



Britney Spears. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



Alec Baldwin

Baldwin denies racist spiel against photog

Alec Baldwin is vehemently denying allegations that he peppered a paparazzo with racial epithets during a heated exchange outside his Manhattan apartment, according to E! News. A photographer working for the New York Post claims that Baldwin called him "a crackhead," "a coon" and

"a drug dealer" during the altercation. "The claim of racist remarks is one of the most outrageous things I've heard in my life," Baldwin says. "I've certainly had my moments. But this is not one of them. I don't think I've ever uttered a racial epithet to someone in my lifetime."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



MAC and Rihanna team up

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Face it, this is Rihanna's moment. The pop star dazzled in Azzedine Alaïa at the Grammys, made headlines with her controversial date, Chris Brown, and launched her first collection with U.K. high street retailer River Island during London Fashion Week. Yesterday — on her 25th birthday, no less — it was announced that she's teaming up with MAC cosmetics on four collections that will hit stores later this year. It's the first time the cosmetics

giant will collaborate with one celebrity on multiple lines.

According to an exclusive interview with WWD, the first product up will be RiRi Woo, a lipstick inspired by MAC's best-selling red, Ruby Woo, Rihanna's favourite.

So how does the pop star feel about all the multitasking? "Being creative is something that I love, so I can put that into different outlets. Music happens to be the first thing that I gravitated to and now music opens doors to just so many different opportunities — they all tie in," she says. "My makeup looks, my fashion looks ... they help me to express myself as an artist. I think it helps people to understand me or my mood, my story."

Did you hear that? Apply RiRi Woo and apparently you'll understand why she's still with Chris Brown.

Twitter



@TheRealRoseanne

giving my first interview to high times this week.



@Rosie

We Stanley steamed a carpet - and now the house smells like my Nanas toni home perm - from 1971



@Pink

Mary Poppins is f---ing incredible. Still. Julie Andrews dammit. You just made my lullabies look like a sad sad semi-horse karaoke sesh.



@AlbertBrooks

"Can't wait to see A Good Day to Die Hard" said the man who fell off a motorcycle and really hurt his brain.



Mila Kunis

Kunis game for a That '70s Show reunion

If Mila Kunis' current relationship with Ashton Kutcher didn't make it clear enough, the actress says that yes, she is up for a full-on That '70s

Show re-

union. "I'm more than game for it," she tells E! News. "I've said it before, I would love to do it. Why not? I loved it. It was eight years and they were eight amazing years of my life." The kitschy sitcom went off the air in 2006 after airing 200 episodes. Kunis and Kutcher continue to be the most successful members of the show's young cast.

bug beauty

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Welcome to the wild world of Westwood

Vivienne Westwood.

The designer gives Metro a pre-show interview during London Fashion Week

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

Well, aren't London's galleries having a moment in London? Playing host are Tate Modern, Tate Britain and now the Saatchi Gallery in swanky Chelsea. The area is about as punk as Prince Charles these days, but it used to be home to Vivienne Westwood and Malcolm McLaren's "Sex" shop in the '70s.

I'm here to speak to Vivienne Westwood. Easier said than done, seeing as the PR reps have obviously taken tips from North Korea when it comes to media access. Ninety minutes pass by and the excitement amongst camera crews and reporters begins to wane (there are no chairs) and then she arrives. Has anyone been this excited to spend just a few minutes with a 71-year-old dame? I doubt it.

What kind of statement are you trying to make with this collection, particularly in relation to Julian Assange?

This collection's not got any strong political statement in itself — it's just here to help people look more attractive and more glamorous. I expect the message for the fashion is "quality is more important than quantity." Buy less,



Designer Vivienne Westwood wearing a Julian Assange T-shirt.
IAN GAVAN/GETTY IMAGES

choose well, make it last.

The other thing is, I always use my fashion as a platform to talk out against the problems we face, which are so urgent at the moment. The most important thing is public opinion, which makes politicians change — particularly the message about climate change.

Climate change is caused by the rotten financial system we've got and we can all see what it's doing now. It's making everybody poorer, it's making a few people richer and that's what this system is designed to do and it destroys the earth. And we will not get a different set of values and a better economic system unless we tackle our problems through climate change. What is good for the planet is good for the economy. That's my message.

Are you anti-capitalism?

I don't know. This is something we have to work out. I mean, for example, there's far too much manufacturing in the world of total rubbish. If we want money to circulate, you could pay people not to work, which we do anyway, or you could make more money by paying teachers, for example. And yet, we are cutting down on all those things so that we can continue our old way of doing things, which is to manufacture so a few people can cream off the profits, destroy the earth and destroy the livelihoods of everybody else in the world.

Juergen Teller's latest exhibition features nude images of you. Do you find nudity liberating?

Well, thank you for the question. The thing is, I've worked with Juergen quite a bit. I do a lot of things for other people and Juergen asked me and of course I owe him a favour. He's a great photographer and we've had wonderful results from his stuff. And I must say that I'm quite honoured by the photographs — they are alright.

Would you ever do an interview naked?

No, not unless ... no, not even for Juergen. There's no point, is there?

To what extent is sex a factor in your work?

Well, my husband would love to have all the models naked just like the photographs of Helmut Newton. He just thinks they're amazing.



A model walks the runway at the Vivienne Westwood Red Label show during London Fashion Week Fall/Winter 2013/14 at the Saatchi Gallery on Sunday. IAN GAVAN/GETTY IMAGES

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The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Halifax

Tosan Ikomi,
Student

Age: 23

What she's wearing

Scarf from Ethiopia, Vagabond vintage coat, Guess jeans, Winner purse, Aldo boots.

Her inspiration

"I usually dress according to how I'm feeling, but this outfit was inspired by what a friend was wearing yesterday."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: MEGHAN TANSEY WHITTON,
FASHIONEASTHALIFAX.COM

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!



Entertain indoors or out in style

Entertaining outside hasn't quite arrived in Canada, but checking out what's new in summer entertaining gear is making me pray harder for the warm weather to come as soon as it can. This spring, look for bright citrus or Moroccan colours, a variety of matte and glossy finishes and inventive design styles being offered with acrylic and melamine tabletop. Chic looking enough to use inside or out, but with a price that won't break the bank, there's no excuse for boring summer entertaining. Get into the stores and stock up on some fun outdoor party gear and host a pre-summer patio party indoors — a great way to test some summer cocktails in style.

KARL LOHNES
life@metronews.ca

Stackable beverage dispenser with ice keeper

Serve a variety of chilled, premixed drinks with an acrylic portable beverage station this spring; a great item for outside, but think of its year-long conveniences next Christmas too. \$80, thebay.com.



Clothespin Chopstick

Add some exotic, yet practical flair to your outdoor picnics with CB2's easy-to-use version of the chopstick. Yes, even grandma can now eat sushi. \$5, cb2.com.



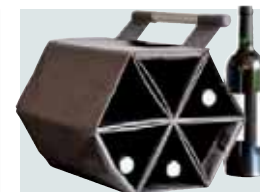
Rhode Acrylic Goblet

Modern and durable, smoke-coloured drinkware add a sophisticated statement to the outdoor table. \$6.50, crateandbarrel.com.



Zak Orange Dinnerware

Bright citrus-coloured melamine dishes add a punch of satin colour to the table. \$5 to \$7 each, bedbathandbeyond.ca.



Zebag Wine Bottle Carry Case

Carry and display your wine in high style, this Zebag Wine Bottle Carry Case rolls out to display your wine. \$70, thebay.com.



Viva Collection Tray

Exotically colourful trays add a punch of style to the table. \$25, sears.ca.

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Savoury and saucy: Hunter's Chicken with Creamy Polenta

"Perfect for a cold night, this stew offers plenty of protein from the chicken and beans," write the editors of The Affordable Feasts Collection. "Polenta is the ultimate inexpensive side dish."

1. In nonstick skillet, heat 2 tsp of the oil over medium-high heat; brown chicken, about 8 minutes. Transfer to plate.

2. In same skillet, heat remaining oil over medium heat; cook onion, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add mushrooms and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally, for 3 minutes.

3. Stir in chicken broth, tomatoes, beans, tomato paste, Italian herb seasoning, salt and chicken and any accumulated juices; bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer until thickened, 15 minutes. Stir in parsley.

4. Polenta: Meanwhile, in saucepan, bring 6 cups water to boil. Whisk in cornmeal, salt and pepper; simmer over



This recipe serves four. JEFF COULSON

medium-low heat, stirring often, until thick and stiff to stir, 10 minutes. Stir in butter.

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Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 8 boneless skinless chicken thighs, cut in 1-inch (2.5 cm) chunks
- 1 onion, chopped
- 8 oz (225 g) button mushrooms, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup sodium-reduced chicken broth
- 1 cup bottled strained tomatoes (passata)
- 1 can (19 oz/540 mL) white kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 tbsp tomato paste
- 2 tsp Italian herb seasoning
- Pinch salt
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- Creamy Polenta**
- 1 2/3 cups cornmeal
- 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed

Cookbook of the Week

Eats that are easy on the wallet



When there's no room in your budget for luxuries, you can still eat like royalty at home, thanks to The Affordable Feasts Collection by The Canadian Living Test Kitchen. Each chapter of the book focuses on a specific type of ingredient that's always reasonably priced: Red Meat, White Meat; Eggs, Beans & Tofu; Pasta, Noodles & Rice and Hearty Vegetables. As a result, among the affordable delicacies are: Steak alla Pizzaiola, Pork Chops with Peppared Apples, Grilled Peanut Tofu Salad, Italian Stovetop Mac & Cheese, Sweet Potato Perogies and more. METRO

Escape the cold with Hearty Beef Stew

1. Trim and cut beef into 1-inch (2.5 cm) cubes. In plastic bag, shake together beef, flour, salt and pepper; reserving remaining flour mixture, remove beef. In Dutch oven, heat 2 tsp of the oil over medium-high heat; brown beef. Transfer to plate.

2. Add remaining oil, onions, Italian herb seasoning, bay leaves and reserved flour mixture to pan; cook over medium-low heat, scraping up browned bits, for 5 minutes. Return beef and any juices to pan.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lb (675 g) stewing beef cubes
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 onions, cut in wedges
- 1 1/2 tsp Italian herb seasoning
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 can (28 oz/796 mL) whole tomatoes
- 2 cups chopped peeled sweet potatoes
- 2 potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 3/4 cups sodium-reduced beef broth
- 1 cup frozen peas

3. Using potato masher, crush tomatoes; add to pan along with sweet potatoes, potatoes, celery and broth. Bring to

boil; cover and simmer over medium-low heat or cook in 325 F (160 C) oven, stirring occasionally, until beef is tender,



This recipe serves six. JODI PUDGE

about 2 hours. Uncover and cook until slightly thickened,

about 15 minutes. Stir in peas. Discard bay leaves.

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Huskies can't bury enough chances in loss to Acadia

Series opener.

Axemen silence home crowd with OT winner



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

The Saint Mary's Huskies had more than their fair share of chances — they just couldn't make enough of them count.

After coming back from two one-goal deficits in Game 1 of the Atlantic University Sport men's hockey semi-final, the Huskies fell 3-2 in overtime to a feisty Acadia Axemen squad in front of 1,720 fans at the Halifax Forum on Wednesday night.

Axemen forward Mike Cozzola sealed the deal off a pretty pass from Brett Thompson 5:19 into the extra frame.

Huskies forward Shawn O'Donnell, who picked up a pair of assists in the contest, wasn't about to make excuses.

"Acadia came in here and did what it had to do," O'Donnell said. "We certainly had our chances and a couple of bounces the other way



Matt Tipoff of the Saint Mary's Huskies flips the puck past Acadia Axemen goaltender Evan Mosher during the first period on Wednesday night. JEFF HARPER/METRO

would have given us the win."

Axemen netminder Evan Mosher played superbly in net, making 39 stops in the victory.

The Huskies never led in the contest. After they found themselves in a 2-1 hole following the first period, Chris MacKinnon collected the

equalizer with 11 minutes remaining in the third period.

O'Donnell admitted his team's first-round playoff bye might have caused them to

Game 2

Game 2 of the best-of-five series goes ahead on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Halifax Forum.

come out of the gate a little slow.

"We just have to keep it simple, play the same sort of game that we played tonight. If we just keep chipping pucks in and pounding away, we're going to be all right."

Matt Tipoff scored the other goal for the Huskies while Thompson and Spencer Jezegou responded for the Axemen in regulation.

Regular-season scoring leader Lucas Bloodoff was held off the score sheet for Saint Mary's. Bloodoff admitted there was plenty of room for improvement, especially on the defensive end. But at the same time he said there were positives to take from the game.

"We gave a very good effort. We outshot them by quite a lot," he said. "We just have to come out with another strong effort tomorrow and we'll be fine."

Moose dump Sea Dogs, set new wins record



Halifax Mooseheads forward Jonathan Drouin JEFF HARPER/METRO

Impressive as the Halifax Mooseheads have been this season, it should come as no surprise they set a franchise record for wins in dominating fashion.

Martin Frk and Jonathan Drouin each finished with four points as the Mooseheads dumped the Saint John Sea Dogs 8-3 in QMJHL action on Wednesday night at Harbour Station.

The victory is the team's 47th of the season, breaking the previous high for wins of 46 set by the 1998-99 Mooseheads.

"Obviously, it's something enjoyable. It shows we are having a good season," Mooseheads coach Dominique Ducharme said. "But I think we'll enjoy it

Goal tally

285

Goals scored this season by Halifax, which is tops in the QMJHL.

more once everything is done — when we look back at everything we achieved this year. We remain focused on what we still need to do."

Frk had three goals and an assist, while Drouin had a goal and three helpers. The four points by Drouin moves him into a tie for third spot in the league scoring race, with 35 goals and 86 points in 40 games.

It also extends his league-leading point streak to 21 games (20 goals, 26 assists).

"Joe is playing really well and he's been getting rewarded," Ducharme said.

Stephen MacAulay, in his first game back in Saint John since being traded to the Mooseheads in early January, finished with a goal and an assist. Andrew Ryan, Luca Ciampini and MacKenzie Weegar had the other goals for Halifax (47-6-2-1), which outshot Saint John 40-27.

Maxime Villemaire, Matthew Highmore and Jurij Repe replied for the Sea Dogs (21-35-1), who face Halifax again Friday night at the Metro Centre at 7 p.m. PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO

AUS women's basketball

Colley sets new scoring record

Justine Colley is in a league of her own.

The Saint Mary's Huskies basketball star set a single-season AUS record for points in her team's 88-60 home win over the Acadia Axewomen on Wednesday night.

Colley, a fourth-year forward from East Preston, finished with a game-high 32 points. She now has 545 points this season, moving her ahead of the old single-season AUS point total record she co-owned with Kesley Hodgson of the Cape Breton Capers.

Colley finished with 515 points last season, a total Hodgson reached in 2008-09. Colley now has 1,941 career points, a Saint Mary's record. METRO



Justine Colley HANDOUT

Curling

Arsenault getting hot at Scotties

Mary-Anne Arsenault and her Mayflower rink have made it three-straight wins at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

The team improved to 3-4 after scoring a

single in an extra end for a 7-6 win over Newfoundland and Labrador on Wednesday night.

Nova Scotia plays P.E.I. and Ontario on Thursday.

Ontario skip Rachel Homan is tied for first place at the tournament with Manitoba's Jennifer Jones, who beat Heather Nedohin 8-5 to knock the Team Canada skip from the unbeaten ranks. METRO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Are you the forgiving sort? Probably not, but it will pay you to be a little less judgmental today, especially with people who are not as sharp-witted as you. Not everyone can be an Aries now, can they?

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

It would be nice if everyone was as honest and open as you, but they're not. So, take people as you find them and make allowances for those who fail to live up to your standards — that's just about everyone.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

It will dawn on you today that some people don't want to be helped. So what's the problem? If others want to wallow in their own despair just let them. It's not really any of your business after all.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Let your imagination lead you in new directions today. As you think now so you will be later on, so give your mind permission to roam and don't worry that you may not accomplish much of a practical nature.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Put other people's needs ahead of your own today, even if you end up out of pocket. A few dollars here or there won't make much difference to you but it could make all the difference in the world to them.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you have not yet reached your goals don't give up hope — and certainly don't blame it on other people. Be honest with yourself about where the blame lies and redouble your efforts over the next few days.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You have everything to look forward to and nothing to fear. No, really! Whatever the reason for your doubts and fears, you must not waver from the tasks you have set. Keep going. You're almost there.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Someone who fears or resents you will place obstacles in your path today and you would not be human if you did not feel a bit angry about it. But don't let your feelings show because that's what they are hoping.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Someone you love is finding it hard to make sense of their feelings. You, of course, have no such doubts and may be puzzled by their dilemma. Don't make fun of them though. They think it is deadly serious.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You need to cut back on your commitments. According to the planets, you have taken on too many responsibilities of late — few of which are doing you good. It's time to be kind to yourself and ease off a bit.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

It might be best not to make any major decisions over the next 24 hours as the planets suggest you don't really know what you want. Leave it a couple of days and you are less likely to make a costly mistake.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Neptune in your sign is making even quite simple situations look complicated. Both at home and at work you must think and act as if everything is fine, even if the opposite appears to be true. It's all about attitude. **SALLY BROMPTON**

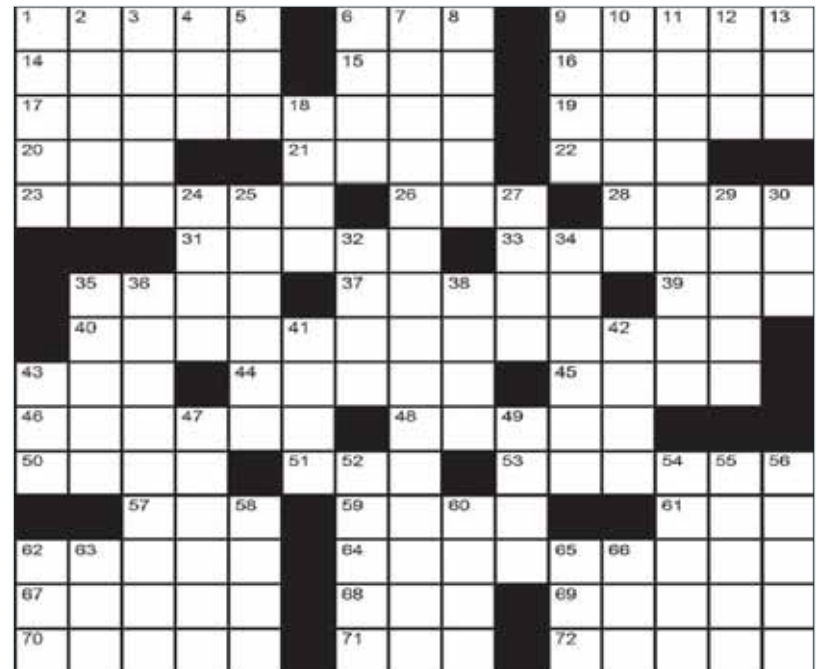
Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Church members
6. "Survivor" network
9. Singer/guitarist Colin
14. Outer's opposite
15. Ad ___ committee
16. Kind of clover
17. Movie company founded in Vancouver in 1997
19. "Your show's starting!": 2 wds.
20. Go from ___ B
21. Once ___ a time...
22. Geog. coordinate
23. ___-14 dating
26. Marked the ballot's little square box
28. 'Prem' suffix (Movie's first showing)
31. Monday: French
33. Reflection giver
35. Kilt wearer
37. Caper
39. Writer Mr. Fleming
40. "Sweet Jane" band helmed by Margo Timmins: 2 wds.
43. Writer Mr. Capote, to pals
44. Map detail
45. "Meet Me ___ . Louis" (1944)
46. Rant
48. More sweet
50. Alphabet sequence
51. TV ___
53. Goodies
57. Sequence, for short
59. Petty quarrel
61. Egg mass
62. "The ___ a man's heart...": 2 wds.
64. Alberta's provincial bird, Great ___
67. Oscar-winner Tatum
68. "Carot" completer
69. "Wake Up Little ___" by The Everly Brothers
70. Like a Viking
71. '60s hallucinogenic
72. MTV target audience

Down

1. Light purple flower

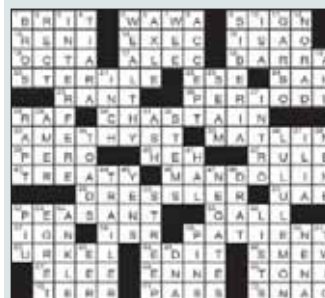


2. Rita Moreno's role in "West Side Story" (1961)
3. The Koh-___ Diamond
4. Five + Five's total
5. Decade divs.
6. Gent
7. They're used to smooth frown lines: 2 wds.
8. Vista
9. Prison
10. Aquila constellation's brightest
11. Whodunits
12. ___-friendly
13. LFL Ottawa hockey player

18. Fashion mentor Tim of "Project Runway"
24. Setback
25. Win at the auction
27. Music key, ___
29. Jokes-filled celebrity tribute
30. 'North' suffix
32. "___ of Thunder" (1990)
34. More yucky
35. Theatre curtain fabric
36. Montreal Canadiens great, Yvan ___
38. Ballerina's garb
41. Singles
42. Concerning, on a memo: 2

- wds.
43. Final amt.
47. Really big veins
49. Talk to ya later, e-mail-style
52. Archie Comics character
54. Sprang up
55. Haul a car to the garage: 2 wds.
56. Tennis great Monica
58. Chiquita competitor
60. Wilma's hubby
62. Got the gold
63. 'Volc' ender (Lava spewer)
65. Approx.
66. "___ South"

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	4	9	8	3	2	5	7
2	3	9	6	5	7	4	1	8
5	8	7	4	2	1	9	6	3
7	2	5	3	6	8	1	4	9
3	9	6	1	4	5	7	8	2
4	1	8	2	7	9	6	3	5
9	5	1	7	3	4	8	2	6
8	7	2	5	1	6	3	9	4
6	4	3	8	9	2	5	7	1

	7		3		4	6	9	
					5			8
2						1		3
	4		7			3	6	
				1				
	8	1			2		5	
5		7						6
6				5				
	3	9	4		1			7

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Friday

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Flurries

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